

# Kentucky Agri-News

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Featuring:   ► Agricultural Prices   ► Slaughter   ► Cold Storage   ► Farm Labor  
              ► Milk Production       ► Cattle on Feed   ► Corn Chemical Use   ► Egg Production

## KENTUCKY CROP PRICES UP WHILE LIVESTOCK PRICES WERE MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for corn and soybeans while livestock prices were mixed. Hog prices were unchanged to up while cattle prices were steady to lower.

**Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$100.00 per cwt. (hundred weight) for mid-May. This was unchanged from April while down \$12.00 from May 2005. Steers and heifers were at their lowest price since February 2005. **Beef cow** price at mid-month was \$48.00 per cwt., unchanged from April and down \$7.00 from May last year. **Calves** less than 500 lbs. averaged \$123.00 per cwt. at mid-May. This was down \$3.00 from a month earlier, down \$10.00 from a year earlier and would be the lowest calf price in five months.

Hog prices for mid-month were steady to up in price. **Barrows and gilts** for mid-May averaged \$47.00 per cwt., an increase of \$7.00 from April while down \$7.00 from a year earlier. This mid-month price for barrows and gilts would be the highest in seven months. **Sow** price at mid-month was \$28.00 per cwt., unchanged from April while down \$11.00 from May 2005. The April and May sow prices were the lowest since January 2004.

Sheep and lamb prices for April were both down from March prices. The **sheep** price at \$36.00 per cwt. was down \$13.00 from the March price. The **lamb** price was \$93.00 per cwt., down \$7.00 from March.

Price of **all milk** for mid-May was \$12.70 per cwt., down 30 cents from the April price and \$3.10 from May 2005. The mid-month price would be the lowest milk price since July 2003. The final monthly milk price will vary from the projected mid-month price due to price changes announced by the Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity of milk sold by class.

Grain prices for mid-May were up. The **corn** price at mid-month was \$2.50 per bushel, an increase of 14 cents from the April price and 29 cents from May 2005. This would be the highest corn price since July 2004. **Soybeans** at mid-May

were \$5.85 per bushel, up 22 cents from the April price but down 64 cents from May 2005. The **winter wheat** mid-May price was \$3.65 per bushel.

The Preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from April. The Crop Index was up 3 points (2.4 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (1.0 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, hogs, onions and grapefruit. Lower prices were received for cattle, asparagus, tomatoes, and eggs. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of grapes, sweet corn, cantaloupe, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, calves, and apples. Preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 5 points (4.2 percent) from May 2005.

### AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		MAY 2005	APR 2006	MAY 2006	MAY 2006
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <i>g/</i>	
All Corn <i>b/ c/</i>	Bu.	2.21	2.36	2.50	2.17
Soybeans <i>b/</i>	Bu.	6.49	5.63	5.85	5.62
Winter Wheat <i>b/</i>	Bu.	2.69	C	3.65	4.10
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	115.00	120.00	115.00	118.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	67.00	70.00	70.00	96.80
All Hogs	Cwt.	53.40	39.50	46.20	47.20
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	54.00	40.00	47.00	47.90
Sows	Cwt.	39.00	28.00	28.00	29.40
All Beef Cattle <i>d/</i>	Cwt.	98.30	87.50	87.50	81.80
Steers & Heifers <i>e/</i>	Cwt.	112.00	100.00	100.00	85.80
Cows	Cwt.	55.00	48.00	48.00	48.00
Calves <i>f/</i>	Cwt.	133.00	126.00	123.00	132.00
Sheep	Cwt.	--	36.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	--	93.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	15.80	13.00	12.70	12.00
Hog-Corn Ratios <i>g/</i>	Bu.	24.2	16.7	18.5	21.8

*a/*Preliminary. *b/*Includes contract sales paid during month. *c/*Includes yellow and white corn. *d/*"Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. *e/*500 lbs. and over. *f/* Under 500 lbs. *g/*Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.61 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in April 2005. April 2005 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays. April 2006 contained 20 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 2 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,246 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.96 million head, 6 percent below April 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	April 2005	March 2006	April 2006	April 06 % of	
				April 2005	March 2006
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	1,888	2,209	1,973	105	89
Veal	13.0	13.3	10.9	84	82
Pork	1,703	1,871	1,613	95	86
Lamb & Mutton	15.5	18.2	17.0	109	93
Total U.S.	3,620	4,112	3,614	100	88
Total Kentucky	35.8	44.2	37.1	104	84

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. APRIL 2005 & 2006 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.5	1.3	1,320	1,260	901	939
Hogs	173.3	179.8	46,744	48,380	270	269
Sheep & Lambs	1.1	1.0	145	126	129	131
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,560.3	2,607.4	3,118,373	3,248,884	1,218	1,246
Hogs	8,445.0	7,955.6	2,285,822	2,167,521	271	272
Sheep & Lambs	220.7	248.5	31,050	33,813	141	136

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for beef, eggs, chicken, butter and cheese.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				April 2006 as % of	
Commodity	April 30 2005	March 31 2006	April 30 2006	April 2005	March 2006
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	692,153	869,654	841,131	122	97
Turkey	440,122	380,440	430,123	98	113
Ducks	1,199	7,923	8,002	667	101
Total Frozen Poultry	1,133,474	1,258,017	1,279,256	113	102
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	329,425	423,963	429,066	130	101
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	89,360	67,631	67,220	75	99
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	563,803	502,588	516,260	92	103
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	909,513	946,009	963,614	106	102

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

## APRIL FARM LABOR

There were 956,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 718,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 238,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.79 per hour during the April 2006 reference week, up 44 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.96 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.30 per hour compared with \$9.14 a year earlier.

The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.07 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 29,000 during the week of April 9-15, 2006. This compares to 32,000 hired workers for the same time period a year ago. Wage rates for these workers averaged \$8.85 per hour, up 26 cents per hour from 2005. Field workers earned an average \$8.20 per hour compared to \$8.38 per hour last year. Livestock workers were paid an average of \$7.75 per hour, up 6 cents per hour from a year ago.

## APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

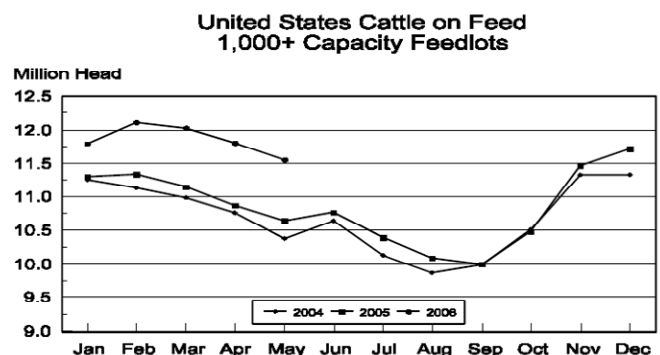
Kentucky milk production for April 2006 totaled 127 million pounds, up 3 percent from April 2005 and up 1 percent from March 2006. Average number of milk cows on farms at 99,000 head, was down 8,000 head from a year earlier and down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,280 pounds, up 130 pounds from April 2005, and up 20 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from

April 2005. March revised production, at 14.6 billion pounds, was up 5.6 percent from March 2005. The March revision represented an increase of 25 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,727 pounds for April, 37 pounds above April 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.24 million head, 124,000 head more than April 2005, and 13,000 head more than March 2006.

## U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on May 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above May 1, 2005 and 11 percent above May 1, 2004. This is the highest May 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. **Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.63 million, 2 percent below 2005 but 2 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.54 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 385,000, 600-699 pounds were 270,000, 700-799 pounds were 444,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.79 million, down slightly from 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 87,000 during April, 4 percent below 2005 and 10 percent below 2004.



## CORN: AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS, KENTUCKY, 2005 <sup>1/</sup>

Agricultural Chemical	Area Applied	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	(Percent)	(Number)	(Pounds per Acre)		(1,000 Lbs)
<b>Herbicides:</b>					
2,4-D, dimeth. Salt	6	1.0	0.452	0.452	32
Acetochlor	14	1.0	1.375	1.375	237
Atrazine	83	1.3	1.219	1.542	1,593
Dicamba, Sodium salt	9	1.3	0.071	0.090	10
Diflufenzopyr-sodium	9	1.3	0.028	0.036	4
Glyphosate iso. Salt	49	1.1	0.875	0.992	606
Imazapyr	13	1.2	0.012	0.014	2
Imazethapyr	13	1.2	0.036	0.043	7
Isoxaflutole	6	1.0	0.038	0.038	3
Mesotrione	16	1.1	0.126	0.133	26
Nicosulfuron	19	1.0	0.023	0.023	6
Paraquat	14	1.0	0.401	0.401	68
Rimsulfuron	15	1.0	0.011	0.011	2
S-Metolachlor	19	1.0	1.299	1.299	306
Simazine	12	1.0	0.889	0.889	129
<b>Insecticides:</b>					
Lambda-cyhalothrin	8	1.0	0.022	0.022	2

<sup>1/</sup>Planted acreage in 2005 for Kentucky was 1.3 million acres.

## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	April 2005	April 2006	April '06 as % of April '05
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,407	7,541	102
Average Layers (000)	343,574	348,454	101
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,156	2,164	100
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	37,308	36,952	99
Chicks Hatched (000)	38,049	34,613	91
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	665,386	658,351	99
Chicks Hatched (000)	792,173	787,064	99

**Internet Access:** Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>